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## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

*Discourse Delivered at the Sixty-fourth Semi-Annual Conference, of the Church, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Saturday Morning, October 7th, 1893, by*

**ELDER FRANCIS M. LYMAN.**

[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.]

I am very pleased, my brethren and sisters, for the privilege of attending this Conference, and, like all the brethren, I feel that I need the assistance of the Spirit of the Lord or my speaking will not be profitable. We are not given to preparing discourses, but rely upon the Lord to give us those things to say that will be suited to the requirements of the Saints. It is a very delicate position for a man to be placed in to stand between the Lord and the people; but having taken upon us the name of Jesus and entered into covenant with Him to perform the duties required of us as bearers of the Priesthood, we are willing to labor and to give the glory to the Lord. The Gospel is the Gospel of Jesus; it is the Gospel of truth and righteousness, and it is not possible for us to properly preach it without the assistance of the Lord. Nor is it possible for us to live it without the presence of the Holy Ghost. No man can be a successful Latter-day Saint without the Spirit of the Lord. No man can hope to enjoy the Spirit of the Lord unless he keep the commandments of the Lord and preserve himself in all purity and righteousness; for the Spirit of the Lord will not dwell in unholy tabernacles. Hence we are first required to have faith in God. If we have faith in Him, we will then repent of our sins. If we repent of our sins, we will be baptized for the remission of them; and then our sins are forgiven us and remembered no more against us, so long as we continue faithful; for all the promises made to us in the Gospel are on condition of our faithfulness. Therefore, every Latter-day Saint is competent to sit in judgment upon himself, and to know whether he is in the favor of the Lord or under condemnation. The Lord has ordered that every man should judge for himself, in his own heart, in regard to all the duties of life. As a man thinketh, so he is. As a man decides in his own heart, so he does. If we judge correctly and under the light and inspiration of the Lord, we will always do right. So far as we today are doing wrong, it is because we have judged wrongfully, whether it is in regard to what would be considered important matters or concerning the minor matters of life; for we never do anything without thinking and deciding, and exercising our will and judgment. The Savior did nothing but what was in accordance with the will of God. Hence He was righteous and without sin. The reason that we are sinners still is because we do not always do the will of the Lord.

It is not sufficient for the Latter-day Saints to have good professions and to have really entered into the Church of Christ; but it is necessary that they should continue faithful every day, in all matters doing the will of God. The Lord has revealed to us His will, so that no one need be at a loss to know what to do and how to do it; for if there is not enough already revealed, or should we not be where we can refer to the revealed will at all times, we are entitled to the presence and inspiration of the Spirit of the Lord to inform us what to do. If we have not that Spirit, we are not in the line of our duty as Latter-day Saints; we are not serving the Lord and keeping His commandments as perfectly as we can do. We can do these things if we will, and the Lord is an ever present help. Our teachers, our bishops, our presidents of quorums and of Stakes, and the Presidency of the Church, may not always be where we can appeal to them; but our Heavenly Father is always near, we can always appeal to Him, and be sure of getting an answer; because by repenting of our sins and being baptized we have entered into a nearness to Him and have made ourselves entitled to the Spirit of the Lord. If we listen to the promptings of the Spirit of the Lord, we will never give a wrong judgment. Bishops will not give wrong judgments, High Councilors will not, Presidents of Stakes will not, if they are prompted and directed by the Spirit of the Lord. All the mistakes that we make are when we act independently and upon our natural judgment, unenlightened by the Spirit of the Lord. These can be avoided by living so that the inspiration of the Lord may be with us every day. If the Spirit of the Lord dwells richly in our hearts as it should do, we never forget our prayers, and we never forget to worship the Lord on the Sabbath day. We always remember that day to keep it holy. If the Latter day Saints do not remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy, it is because the inspiration of the Lord is not in their hearts as it should be. All Latter day Saints who neglect to meet to worship the Lord and to partake of the sacrament are not imbued with the spirit of faith. All Latter-day Saints who are not obedient to the requirements of the Gospel are not enjoying the Spirit of the Lord to that degree that they ought to enjoy it. Where there is a lack of harmony, where there is contention and quarreling, it is because the Spirit of the Lord has not had proper sway in the hearts of the parties concerned

This is the Church of Christ, and our Father has established it. There are perhaps two hundred thousand Latter-day Saints in the world who know this just as well as they know light from darkness. There is no question about it in the hearts of Latter-day Saints. They have done the will of the Lord and have obtained knowledge that this is the Lord's work. This being the case, it will be profitable to us as Latter day Saints to devote our whole time and talents to the accomplishment of the purposes of the Lord and to the establishment of His Church upon the earth. It will be profitable to all Latter-day Saints to make this Church first in their hearts and affections. Why? Because the Lord has told us to seek first the kingdom of God. We have sought the kingdom and have found it, and now that should have our attention before farming, before merchandising, and before literary pursuits and the like. The welfare of the Church of Christ in the earth and the spreading abroad of the Gospel should be our primary object. But is this the case with us? If it is not, then we have need for reformation. If the Church of Christ and the principles of righteousness are not foremost in our hearts, then I say all Israel, so far as they lack have need of reformation. If we have set our hearts upon property, whether it be little or much (for I presume a man could worship a little property as well as a great deal), then we are idolaters. And God has forbidden us to be idolaters. He has commanded us not to bow down to worship anything on earth. Every man should feel that the welfare of the Church of Christ and the advancement of the principles of truth among men for their salvation are ahead of his home, of his merchandising, and of his flocks and herds. Let all these be swept away, but let our hearts be set upon the principles of eternal truth.

Should I allow my property to cause alienation to come in between me and my brethren? Suppose a man should even rob me, and he might be a professed Latter-day Saint. Would he be a brother if he was a robber? I would not care how often he had been baptized, nor what blessings had been placed upon him, if he was a liar, a deceiver and a swindler, he would not be a Latter-day Saint; for I say that a robber and a dishonest man has forfeited his blessings and his right to the Priesthood of God; for the Priesthood of God and its authority can only be

times as hazardous in the United States as in England. In England, the block system is used on 90 per cent of the roads against 5 per cent in our own country. Mr. Prout suggests that railways be compelled to pay heavy damages for accidents, which would, in time, lead them to adopt all possible safeguards. On the other hand, it must be admitted that our laws have tended to depress earnings to the minimum and it is believed that freightage in many instances is done below cost already. In England, the revenue from freight is much larger than here. It would appear that our restrictive legislation is carried out at the expense of human martyrdom. This latter suggestion is not alone urged by the railroads, it seems on its face to be reasonable and just. If it may be accepted as such, it confirms the complaint of "negligence of operation" as above; but while directly laying the blame upon the corporations, a large portion properly may be indirectly laid at the door of the government, which, it must be said, has essayed to grapple with the transportation question in a vacillating and unpractical way, apparently not knowing where to begin, where to stop, and when to get through.

## CATHOLICS PERSECUTED.

A dispatch from Berlin now contains the sickening details of the massacre of Catholics by Cossacks in a small town of the vast Russian empire. It appears that about a hundred of these semi-barbarous soldiers attacked a church where many worshippers were congregated, and commenced to desecrate the place and maltreat the people. An alarm was sounded and the inhabitants of the place gathered and drove away the invaders, after a hot fight. Shortly after this the Cossacks, to the number of six hundred, returned and renewed their work of vandalism in the church. Crucifixes, images and altar ornaments were broken to pieces. About a hundred of the unfortunate people were cruelly murdered, their blood sprinkling the floor of their sacred edifice. Others were captured and driven to an open place, where they were stripped of their clothes, men and women alike, and beaten almost to death. And all this seems to have been done under the direction of regular officers of a Russian regiment.

In connection with this outrage the recent correspondence between Rome and Petersburg will be remembered. The pope a short time ago sent the czar a forcible protest against the persecutions of Catholics in Russia, threatening to denounce the autocrat before the world, if a change did not occur in his attitude toward them. The report says the czar, on the reception of this message, grew furious and proposed to take revenge. His wrath, however, was appeased on representation to him that the Roman pontiff might change his policy towards Russia in favor of the Triple Alliance. A special messenger, a Catholic bishop, was therefore dispatched to Rome to negotiate the conditions of peace between the heads of the two great divisions of the Catholic church.

Of course the question will naturally arise, how far the Russian emperor can be held responsible for the fearful massacre of these Catholics. Probably a great many things are done by his semi-barbarous subjects, which the ruler regrets as much as anyone else. In this case, however, the suspicion is pardonable that the massacre was intended as an answer to the strong language of the pope. Should further investigation prove that suspicion to be only too well founded, and should no adequate reparation be made, it is not improbable that whatever political influence the pope still has will be exercised against Russia and in favor of the powers of the Triple Alliance. Any such leaning, no matter how trifling, will not fail to necessitate new and perhaps critical moves on Europe's great political chess-board.

## THE END NOT YET.

The Seventh-day Adventists in Michigan have received another impression that the end of the world is very near. And so strong has the conviction become that a great many of them are donating their worldly goods to missionary funds for the purpose of converting the world to the seventh-day doctrine before the supposed destruction takes place. At a recent meeting held in Battle Creek, Mich., the people present gave up their gold watches, rings and other jewelry; and others are selling their homes at a sacrifice in order to become preachers.

Panics of this kind have occurred before, both in ancient and modern times, but the world still moves. The trouble is that a good many have read the prophetic declarations of sacred writ as if the mere studying of these would turn them into prophets, the falsity of which supposition has been proven again and again. Prophecy was never intended for that purpose.

To prepare the world for a coming change is a most laudable work, for present conditions are such that some change is necessary. Those who seek in worldly possessions their only happiness need to be reminded that they are building on foundations without stability; and those who consider themselves "oppressed" should be called upon to look forward to a time near at hand when such conditions shall no longer exist. The world should be taught that the coming change is the establishment of a new dispensation on earth, not its destruction. Thus, in the doctrine of a second advent of the Savior is hope and an admonition to well-doing to all. Those who think they at this time must sell their homes as a preparation for the end of the world must be ignorant of the teachings of inspired men on that important subject.

## A YOUNG PLANT BUT STURDY.

There may be movements in the development of human affairs that have gone forward with greater rapidity than the cause of woman suffrage, but there are few that have been pursued with greater perseverance or promoted with more zeal and devotion. Its champions have encountered incalculable and in most instances unreasonable opposition, and they have had to go about all the time with visor down and lance in rest, not only to gain inch by inch the ground maintained by the enemy, but to defend against insidious attack the small portion already wrested by themselves. But this they have done courageously and uncomplainingly; they have been satisfied with gains that were small and in other eyes would have seemed insignificant; and if at the close of any hard-fought campaign they were able to see their principles extended and their outposts advanced if ever so little, they have considered their tireless vigilance and their undaunted courage amply repaid.

But their progress has not been altogether slow; of late years the equal suffrage idea has obtained immense momentum. A paper before us gives some startling figures as to the present status of the case and makes very interesting comparisons as to the area of land and the number of people over and among whom it has made its influence potent. It is shown that women now have the full suffrage—can vote for all elective offices—in

| | Square miles. | People. |
|---|---|---|
| Wyoming | 97,890 | 60,000 |
| Colorado | 103,925 | 419,000 |
| New Zealand | 104,032 | 621,000 |
| Iceland | 39,543 | 72,000 |
| Isle of Man | 280 | 55,000 |
| Jersey (British Island) | 45 | 60,000 |
| Pitcairn Island | 8 | 200 |
| | 345,723 | 1,287,200 |

This much as to statistics. As to comparisons it follows that the women have full suffrage in an area larger than New York, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida combined; larger than all the states on the Atlantic; larger than all the states on the Pacific; larger than all the territories—Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Oklahoma, and District of Columbia; larger than England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Switzerland, Greece, Turkey, Portugal, Bulgaria and Montenegro combined; larger than all Scandinavia; larger than France and Prussia united. Also that they have full suffrage among more people than either Arkansas, California, Louisiana, Maryland, Nebraska, or South Carolina; more people than New Hampshire, Vermont, Oregon and Delaware combined; more people than all Alaska, Arizona, British Columbia, District of Columbia, Idaho, Indian Territory, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Utah united.

These impressive figures apply only to those lands where woman enjoys full suffrage. The regions where she has the partial suffrage (England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Canada, Sweden, Kansas, Australia, etc.) are many, and enormous in area and population. As still more emphatically showing the progress of the great cause, detailed statistics of these latter would be interesting if space permitted their reproduction here. Enough has probably been given, however, to show that the little acorn of a few years ago has taken firm root in kindly soil, has already made straight, strong and shapely growth, and is casting its welcome shade over and upon responsive sections in all parts of the earth.